

M-840,746

S 1,178,515

FEB 24 1967

FOIAb3b

# Reveals CIA Follows U.S. Aid Policies

BY ROBERT YOUNG  
[Chicago Tribune Press Service]

Washington, Feb. 23—President Johnson today indorsed the finding of a special investigating board that the central intelligence agency acted in accordance with national policies established 15 years ago and not on its own when it gave secret financial aid to the international activities of private American student organizations.

The White House made public a letter to the President from Undersecretary of State Nicholas D. Katzenbach, chairman of the three-member board Johnson appointed last week to review the controversial and criticized role of the CIA in covertly giving money to student and other educational groups for their activities in foreign countries.

## "Served the Country"

Katzenbach wrote that this financial support "enabled many far-sighted and courageous Americans to serve their country in times of challenge and danger to the United States and the free world."

Katzenbach told the President that the CIA has been and continues to be indispensable to the security of the United States.

"It is vitally important that the current controversy over its [CIA] support of certain private organizations not be permitted to obscure the value, or impede the effectiveness, of competent and dedicated career officials serving this country," he said in his letter dated yesterday.

## "Agrees with Katzenbach"

George Christian, White House press secretary, said the President agrees with Katzenbach's conclusions. Christian said Katzenbach sent the letter

to the President in response to Johnson's request for a status report on the board's investigation and the letter constituted a preliminary report.

Katzenbach informed Johnson that the board would be able to complete its inquiry into the relations of government agencies and private organizations operating abroad "in the very near future" and that he expected the board to report its conclusions and recommendations early next month.

After disclosure of CIA financial backing of the international activities of the National Student association and other private groups earlier this month, the President assigned Katzenbach, John W. Gardner, health, education, and welfare secretary, and Richard Helms, CIA director, to review any government operations which might endanger the "integrity and independence" of the nation's educational institutions.

## Told to Draft Policy

The panel was directed to draft a policy to guide federal agencies in their relationship to the international activities of American educational organizations.

Katzenbach wrote to President Johnson yesterday that pending the inquiry board's final report, "there are certain basic facts with respect to past activities of the central intelligence agency which should be underscored."

Katzenbach then stated that when the CIA "lent financial support to the work of certain American private organizations," the agency did not act on its own initiative, but in accordance with national policies established by the national security council in 1962 thru 1954 and in effect under Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, and Kennedy.

CPYRGHT

CPYRGHT